

Atty. Docket No. Q67282
PATENT APPLICATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/000,362

network before receiving a call request and for then using the transport connection for a call as soon as a request to set up a call is received.

As introduced in the background section of the present application, the conventional method for setting up a call between a user 1 in a vehicle equipped with a mobile telephone equipment A and a terrestrial user 2 served by a mobile telephone equipment unit B includes the following steps:

1. Requesting connection of the telephone of the user 1 to the equipment unit A;
2. Requesting a connection between the equipment unit A and the equipment unit B;
3. Setting up and activating the connection between the equipment units A and B; and
4. Connecting the equipment unit B to the user 2.

The contribution of the present application is to set up a transport connection E2 between the equipment units A and B before a request to set up a call is received, thus saving the time for setting up the connection between the equipment units A and B. The recited transport connection can be used for a call as soon as a request to set up a call is received.

Lidbetter describes the use of a "tracking" satellite connection between the vehicle and the terrestrial mobile network. But there is no discussion of establishing a connection over this satellite link when there is no call, and then using the established connection to serve a subsequent request for a call from a user onboard the vehicle and a user in the terrestrial mobile network. At best, the "tracking" connection would be maintained simply through control signaling or the like, and when a request for a call is made by a user onboard the vehicle it would be necessary to establish a call over an available satellite channel, in essentially the same manner

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as describe in the Background section of the present application, with the consequent call-establishment delay. There is no discussion of maintaining ahead of time a connection which can be used for a call.

Horrer provides a method for setting up a telecommunication link to persons in an airplane as well as a telecommunication system and network. Horrer does not supply the deficiency of Lidbetter.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 are patentable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

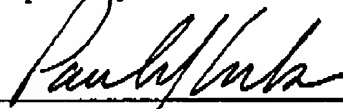
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Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 11th day of January, 2005.


Thea K. Wagner